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## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

James R. Geschwindt et al

Serial No.: 10/736,945

Filed: December 15, 2003

Title: Permeable Inlet Fuel Gas Distributor  
for Fuel Cells

Docket No.: C-2950

Art Unit: 1795

Examiner: Laios, Maria J.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile  
transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office  
(Fax No. 571-273-8300) on May 4, 2009

Barbara Cecere

RESPONSECommissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

1. This paper is in response to the Office Action dated April 16, 2009. Claims 3, 5-8 and 10 are withdrawn; claims 1, 2, 4, 9 and 11-14 are considered herein.

2-6. Withdrawal of previous rejections is noted with extreme gratitude.

7, 8. Claims 2, 4, 9 and 12 are rejected as anticipated by Liu et al (Liu). Liu discloses a plurality of fuel cells 102 arranged in a stack 104 [0027]. The fuel cells "are arranged in pairs that have the anodes facing one another (sometimes referred to as a 'shared anode chamber' arrangement)....(two pairs are stacked in Fig. 1)" [0026]. Between each related pair of anodes 106, the material 120 has capillary action for wicking the liquid fuel, such as a methanol/water mixture [0029], and the fuel distribution element 134 is formed with material having the same properties as element 120 [0032].

Claim 2 requires (line 2) "each of said fuel cells having at least one fuel flow field" and (line 5), "a fuel inlet manifold in fluid communication with all of said fuel flow field inlets." [Emphasis added] The fuel distribution element 134 in Liu serves only one element 120, and does not serve any other fuel cell pairs in the stack. Since there are four fuel cells and only two fuel flow fields in Liu, each of said fuel cells in Liu does not have at least one flow field. Therefore, the distribution element 134 does not have a manifold communicating with all fuel